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OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Letter dated 24 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Mr. Kim Yong Sam of south Korea on 23 June 1997 at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly.

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated to all representatives of the plenary meeting as a document of the special session under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Kim Hong U
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement by the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea responds as follows to the remarks by Mr. Kim Yong Sam of south Korea at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly on 23 June 1997.

The demilitarized zone of the Korean peninsula is a symbol of the tragic division of the nation; it is not a treasure to be proud of at the international forum.

Nevertheless, Mr. Kim Yong Sam asserted in his statement that the north and south of Korea should cooperate with each other to protect and preserve the natural environment of the demilitarized zone.

This hypocritical and illogical assertion only proves of its own accord his true colour as a splittist and traitor of the nation. Talking about environmental protection in the demilitarized zone reveals the intention of traitor Kim Yong Sam to perpetuate the division of the country.

The environment in the demilitarized zone has been deteriorating ever since the south Korean authorities built the concrete wall in the southern part of the zone, dividing the territory of Korea and damaging the ecological system of the Korean peninsula.

Therefore, the south Korean authorities should, before anything else, demolish the concrete wall rather than making a crafty attempt to insult the nation and divert world opinion elsewhere by clamouring about environmental protection of the demilitarized zone.